

Evaluation of Work by Scientists

By Prof. A.S. PAINTAL

I am grateful to the Indian Institute of Technology of Delhi for inviting me to deliver the VIII V. Ramakrishna memorial lecture. Prof. V. Ramakrishna has left a mark and he is remembered fondly by many of his students and colleagues. He was apparently a versatile scientist and worked in several fields of chemistry but his main contribution was in the field of chemical education and in helping others. How does one evaluate the work of such a scientist? I will begin by telling you what transpired recently.

On April 17 of this year, the Society for Scientific Values held a Seminar on Scientific Values and Excellence in Science. Several good papers were read and a lively discussion followed each presentation. After the key note paper on Fraud and Misconduct in Science, one of the participants made the following observation:

"It is important that before we take up individual cases of fraud etc. we should first analyse on what basis the Indian scientific community can assess the merits of Indian scientists. At present, in the majority of cases the evaluation of the scientific achievements of an individual is based on the reports of the scientists from foreign countries. Until we evaluate the scientific merit ourselves internally we will be unable to control the occurrence of fraud in science".

to
Papant
R.S.
Bhambhani
Chandrasekhar
Sinha
Reman Singh
Bachchan